

REMARKS

Allowed and Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge the allowance of claims 13-52, 79-99, 206-229, 236-241 and 256-300 and 311-354.

Applicants further acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter in dependent claims 5, 106-199 and 305-310.

Claim Amendments

Applicants thank the Examiner for pointing out the apparent inconsistency in the dependency of claim 329. Claim 329 has been amended to depend from claim 36 which recites a preferred heating temperature of from about 550 to about 1,200°C.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of allowable claim 5 and claims 3-5 have been canceled.

Similarly, claim 248 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of allowable claim 5 and claim 250 has been canceled.

New claim 355 is presented corresponding to the allowable subject matter indicated in claim 305 (including intervening claims 301-303) and claims 301-303 and 305 have been canceled. The dependency of claims 304 and 306-310 has been amended accordingly.

Similarly, claim 252 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter indicated in claim 305 (including intervening claims 301-303).

Claim 100 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of allowable claim 106 (including intervening claims 101-105) and claims 101-106 have been canceled.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of rejected independent claims 1, 100, 248 and 252 and the canceled claims in a continuing application.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 2, 6-52, 79-100, 107-229, 236-244 and 247-249, 251-300, 304 and 306-355 will be pending in the application.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully solicited.

In view of the present amendments presenting allowed or allowable claims, applicants request entry of this amendment after final rejection. However, in the event that this submission would not otherwise be entered, applicants request that this submission be treated as a Conditional Request for Continued Examination pursuant to MPEP 706(h) and authorize the Commissioner to charge the fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) for the filing of a Request for Continued Examination to Deposit Account No. 19-1345. The Commissioner is requested to charge any other fee deficiency in connection with this amendment to Deposit Account No. 19-1345.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Vincent M. Keil". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Vincent" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Keil".

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